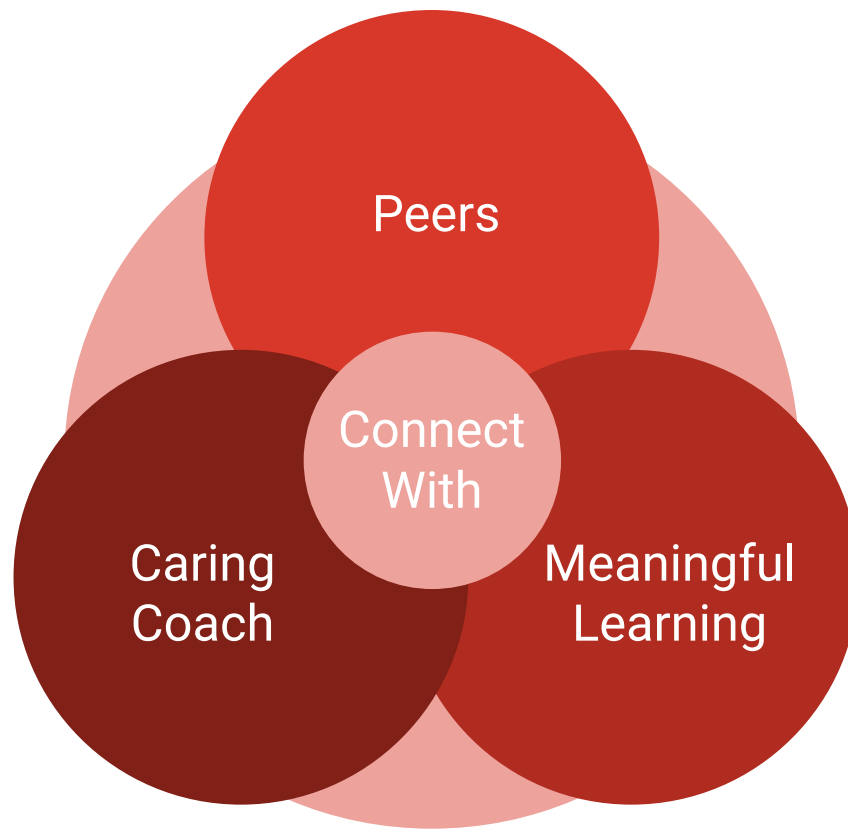


# Virtual Open House

Inspired Virtual

If your child isn't *THRIVING*,  
it's time for a change

# Teens thrive on Personal Connection



*Let your child THRIVE*

**Personal Connection with... Peers**

# Connect with... Peers

Teens crave social interaction

- Missing ingredient in most online learning is personal connection and social interaction
  - Inspired focuses on culture creation, community building through signature courses, online connection activities, consistent (daily) check-ins with a small group

# Thrive on Positive Social Interactions

Making meaningful connections allow deeper relationships to build

- Crew Huddles - morning/afternoon check-ins with Support Crew (3-5 teens) to share intentions and reflections
- Daily Pod Check-ins - a social, start-the-day ritual
  - includes connection activities, interesting discussions, and other group activities;
  - Small group of 8-15 teens to develop a strong sense of community

*Let your child THRIVE*

**Personal Connection with... a Caring Coach**

# Connect With... a Caring Coach

Each student has a personal mentor - the Learning Coach of their Pod

- Mentor relationship develops student's inner resources, focuses on personal development
- Student meets with their Learning Coach 1-on-1 every week

## MENTORING





*Let your child THRIVE*

**Personal Connection with... Learning**

# School often lacks meaningful learning

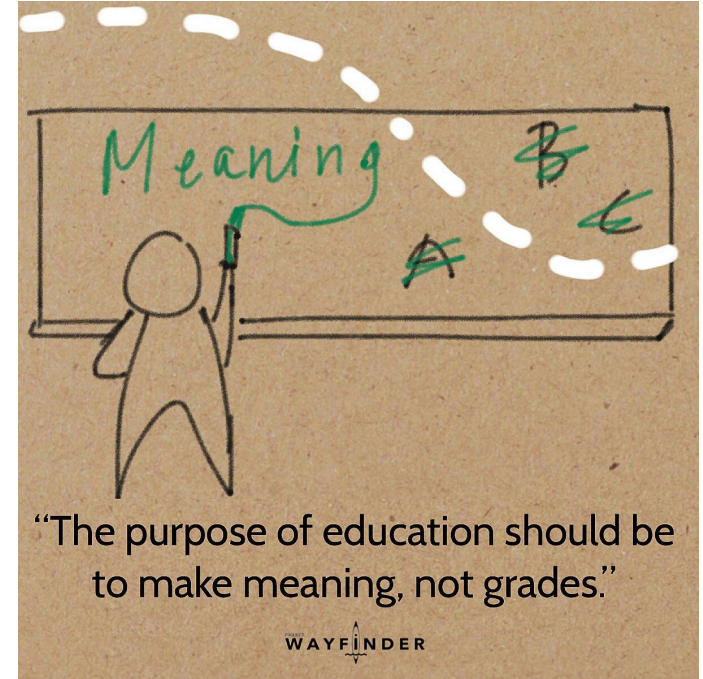
Some students may feel that school is a waste of time

- Not streamlined towards their goals
- Boring
- Unmotivating
- Pace is too slow



# Connect with... Meaningful learning

Learning becomes a task if there is no personal meaning or purpose attached to it



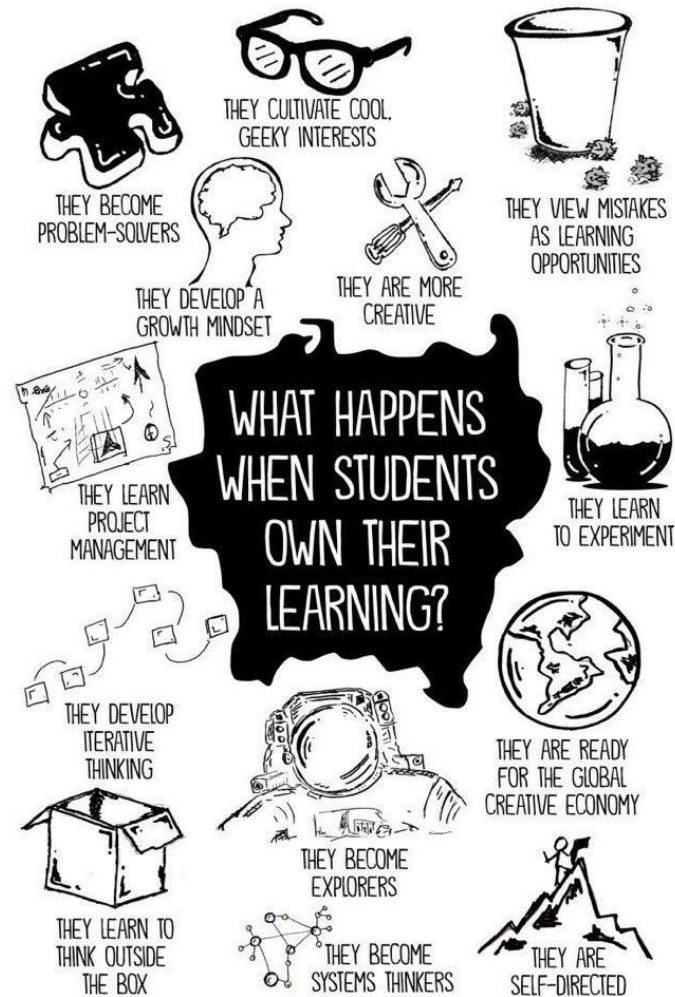
# Thrive with Personal Choice

The foundation of Inspired Virtual is built upon Student Agency\*, or personalized learning:

- Gives students voice, and choice, in how and what they learn
- Greater interest and motivation results
- Empowers students to influence their own path to mastery

\*<https://www.renaissance.com/edwords/student-agency/>

# Thrive with Personal Choice



*\*From the book Empower by A.J.Juliani*

# Thrive with Personal Choice

Results in individualized schedules:

- Master schedule of group classes - based on group requests, special live classes may be arranged, including Inspired Virtual's Signature Courses
- Buddy-up to take online classes together
- Opt-in to group classes of interest
  - Two categories in "of interest": good for future self and good for now
- Fill rest of schedule with independent study classes: online classes or self-defined

Results in a greater class experience

- Everyone has opted-in a.k.a wants to be there

# Thrive with Personal Choice

Choice of 3 Graduation Paths suited to personal goals:

**Traditional University Path, Community College Path, Life Start Path**

**Traditional University Path:** 4 English\*, 3 Math\*, 3 Science\*, 3 Social Studies\*, 1 PE, 2 Foreign Language\*, Speech\*, 5 Electives\*, Achieve SDL Level 3+, Career Studies

**Community College Path:** 2 English\*, 2 Math\*, 3 Major Personal Projects, Speech\*, 10 Electives\*, Achieve SDL Level 3+, Career Studies

**Life Start Path:** 1 Math\*, 1 English\*, 5 Major Personal Projects, Speech\*, 10 Electives\*, Achieve SDL Level 3+, Career Studies

*\* Can be college courses*

# Supportive: How are you smart?

Traditional school only rewards a couple of the 9 types of intelligence outlined by Howard Gardner in his famous book, *Frames of Mind: The Theory of Multiple Intelligences*.

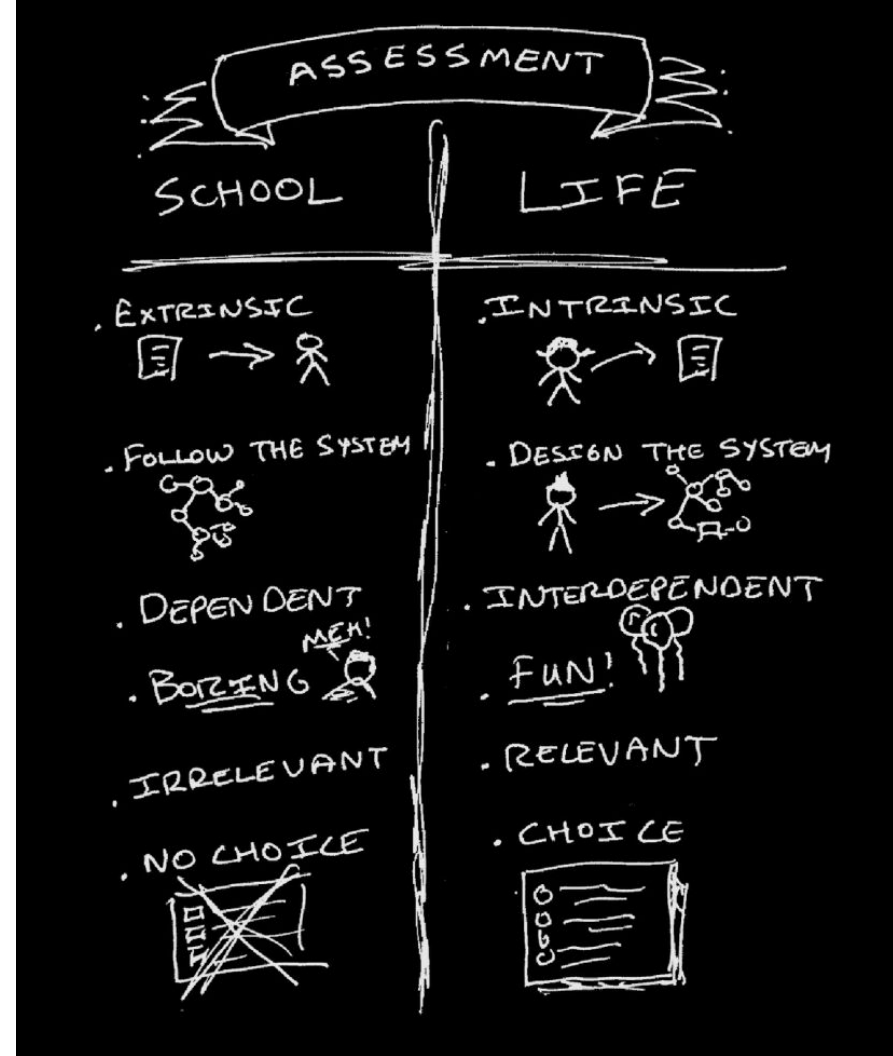
Holistic education looks at the whole person and asks “How are you smart?”





# Meaningful Learning through a Supportive Environment

Assessment is valuable -  
but students need to own it  
and it should mirror real life.



# Thrive in a Supportive Environment

Inspired offers multiple forms of Assessment

We use Self-Assessment,

Narrative feedback from class facilitators,

and...

## Self-Assessment of the Block

Name:

Date:

Block #:

*Please use complete sentences for your answers, including specific examples if possible*

**I. My attitudes as a learner:**

- a. How focused was I?
- b. How disciplined?
- c. How strategic?
- d. How committed?

**II. My approaches to the task:**

- a. How skillful did I become?
- b. How effective was the approach I took?
- c. How organized was I?

**III. My ability to solve problems:**

- a. How well did I identify difficulties?
- b. Consider alternatives?.
- c. Develop solutions?

**IV. My success:**

- a. How good was the job I did?
- b. Did I meet my goals?
- c. My criteria for success? |
- d. Can I see ways for me to improve this work?

# Thrive in a Supportive Environment

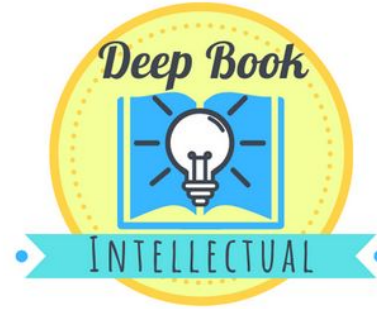
## ...Presentation Nights

Provide opportunities to:

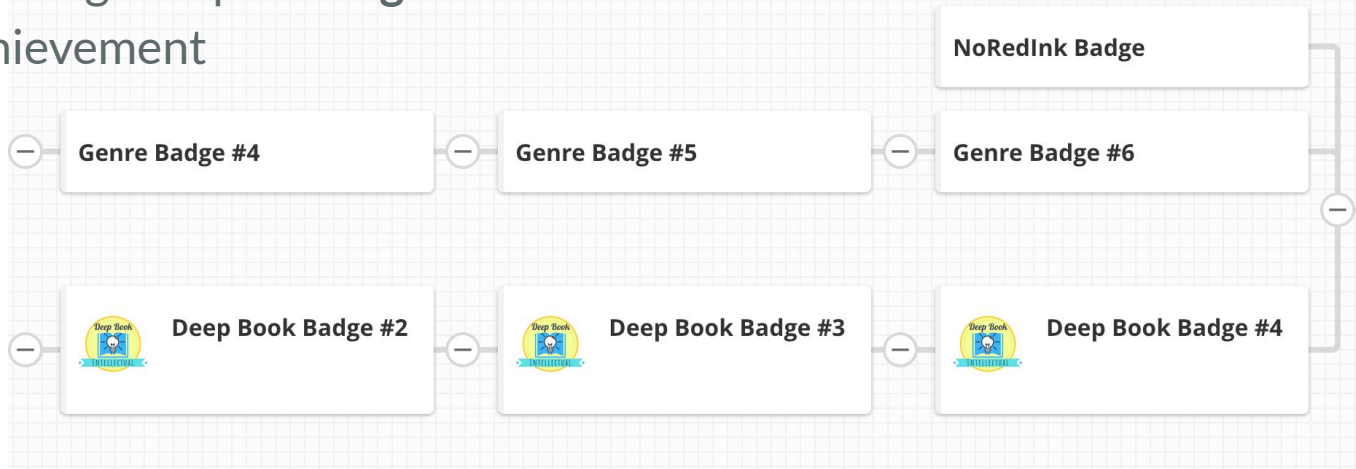
- Speak in front of a live online audience of parents, family and friends
- Learn presentation skills
- Showcase their work
- Receive feedback

Occur at the end of every Inspired Learning Cycle

# Thrive in a Supportive Environment



Final way of Assessment:  
Earn digital open **badges** to show achievement



English II

by  
**Inspired Learning  
Academy**

**Publish Pathway**

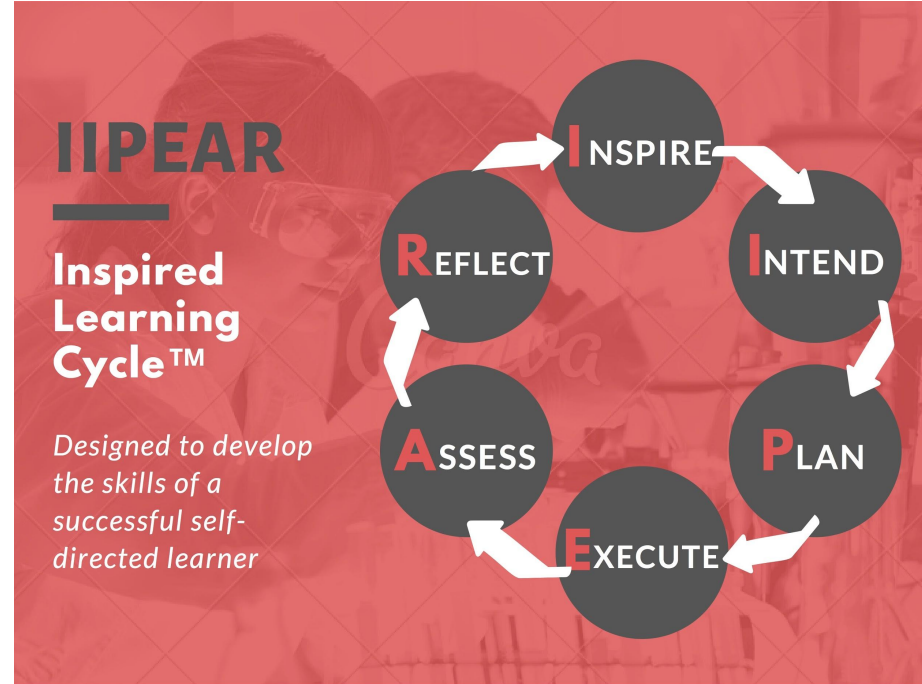
# Thrive on Meaningful Learning

## Conventional Learning Cycle

- Lecture - Study - Test

## Inspired Learning Cycle™

- Like real life
- Meaningful

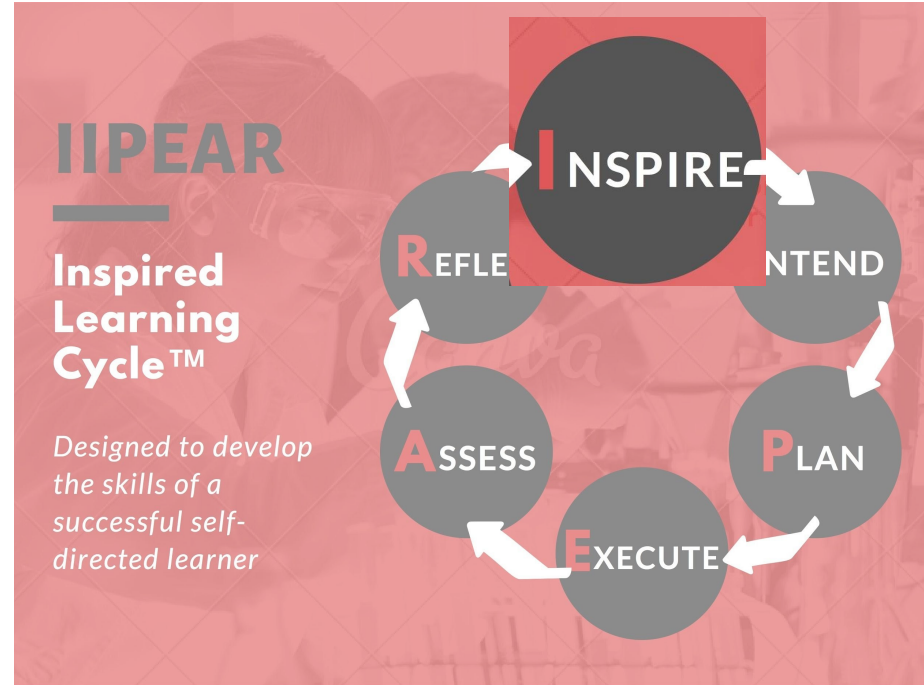


# Thrive on Meaningful Learning

Inspired Learning Cycle™

Inspire by:

- Passionate adults
- Video or Documentary
- Mentor recommendation
- Peer interest
- Brainstorm

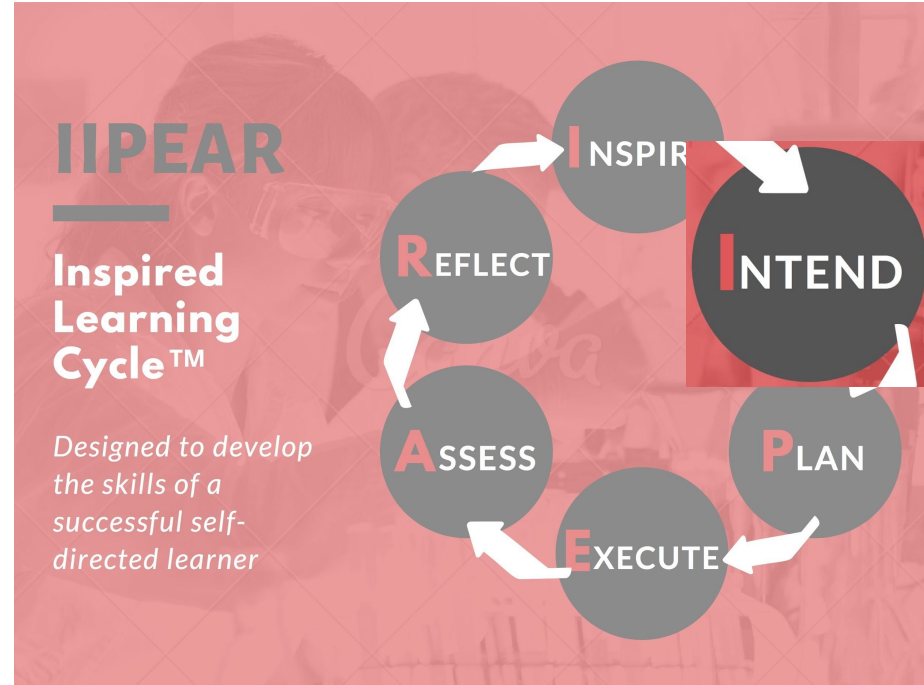


# Thrive on Meaningful Learning

Inspired Learning Cycle™

Intend by:

- Voting on group classes
- Selecting independent study classes
- Creating a schedule



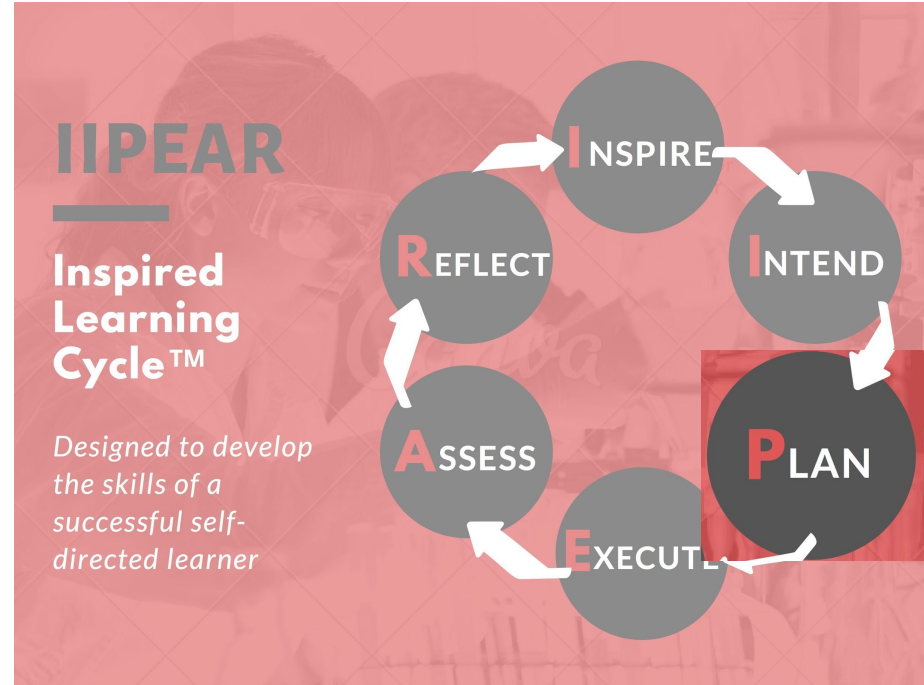
# Thrive on Meaningful Learning

Inspired Learning Cycle™

Plan by:

- Making a plan for each independent class

<https://trello.com/b/3BaHLrl2/photography-2019-2020>



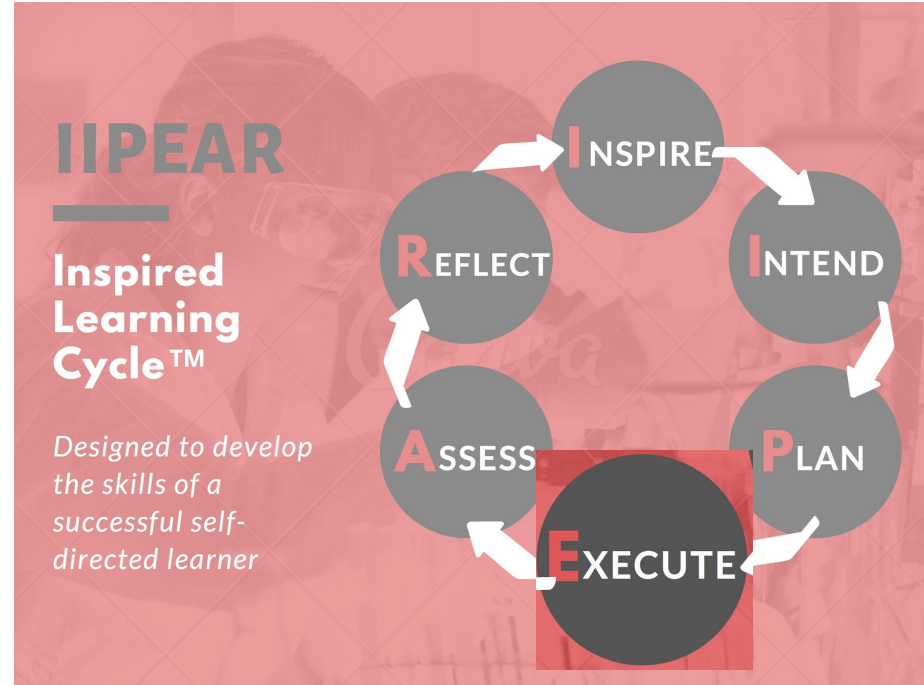


# Thrive on Meaningful Learning

Inspired Learning Cycle™

Execute by:

- Engaging in learning
- Following and adjusting plans
- Preparing for Presentation Night

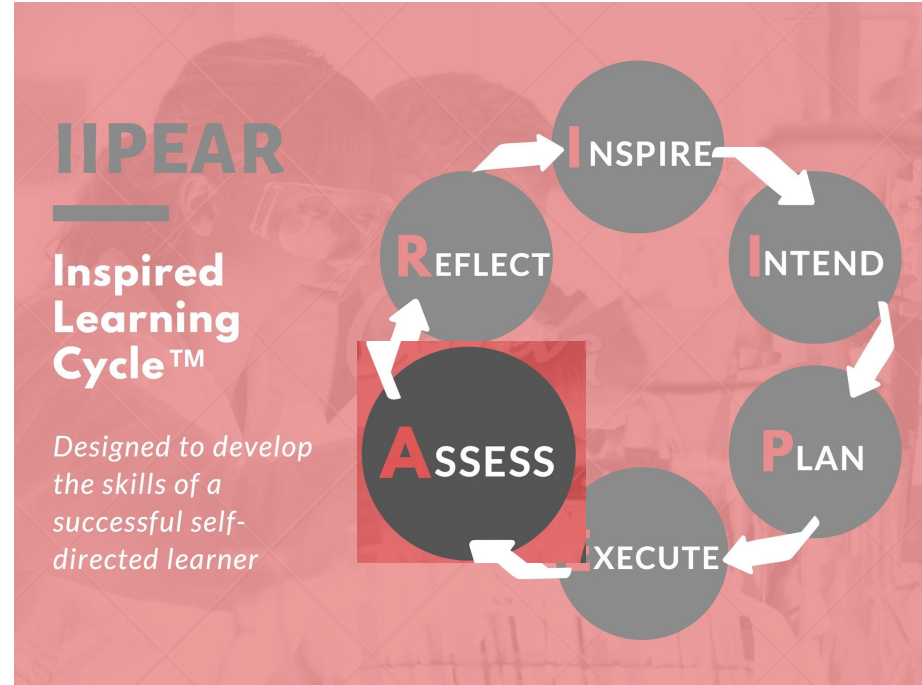


# Thrive on Meaningful Learning

Inspired Learning Cycle™

Assess by:

- Presentation Night
- Self-Assessment
- Narrative Feedback
- Apply for Badges



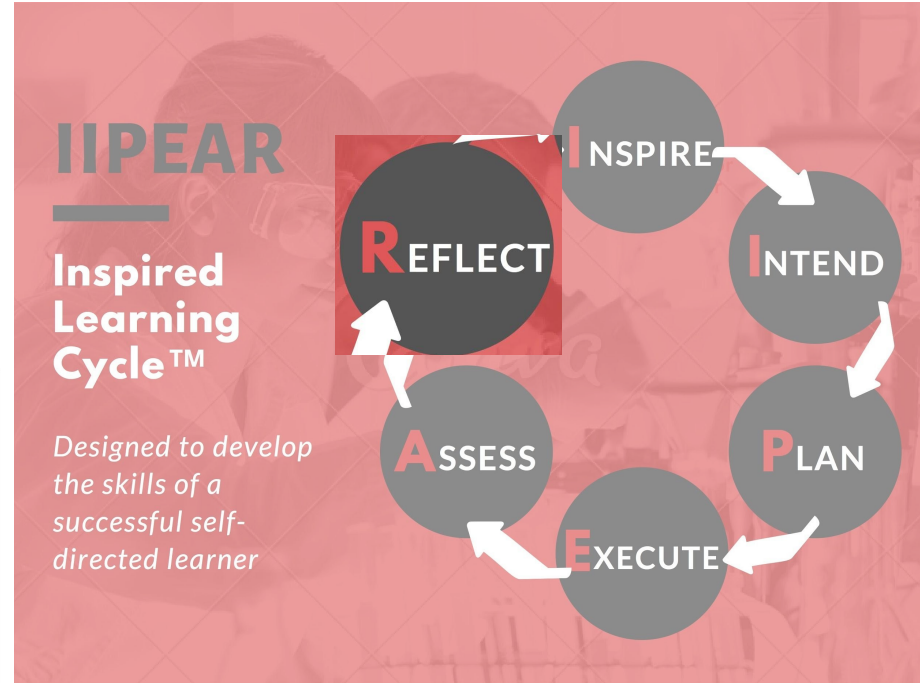
# Thrive on Meaningful Learning

Inspired Learning Cycle™

Reflect by:

- Self-Reflection
- Reviewing feedback

Reflection	
What Glowed? 	Where to Grow? 
What to Throw? 	Now I Know! 



# Thrive on Meaningful Learning

## Passion projects

- Time and support to find your passion
- Dive in deeper into what interests you

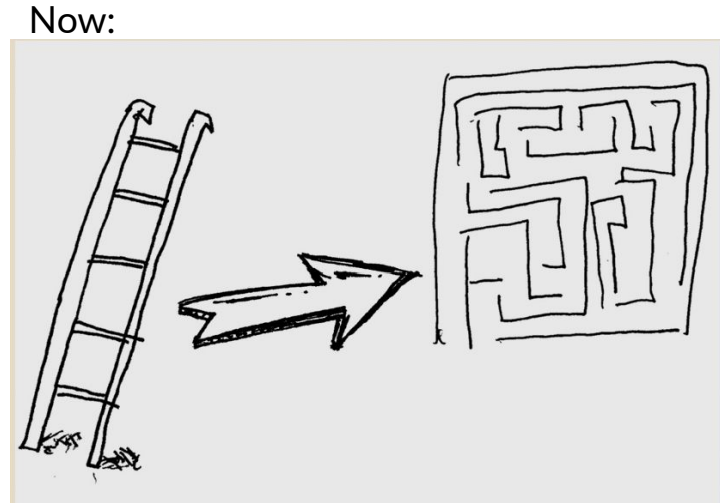
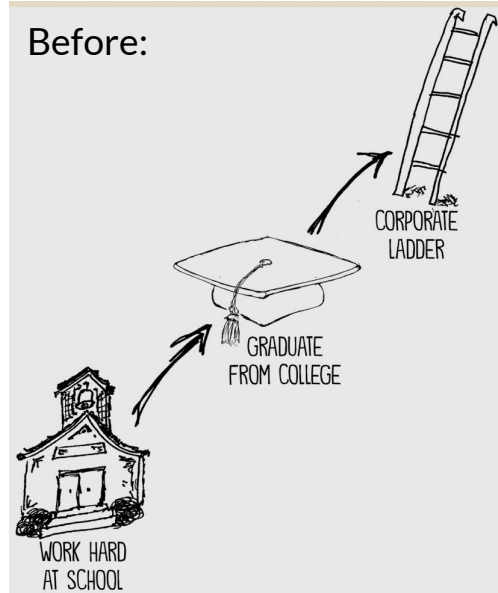
## Apprenticeship

- Consult experts in the field
- Get a head start on your career path

*Let your child THRIVE*

Inspired helps your child thrive – in *life*

# The New Economy



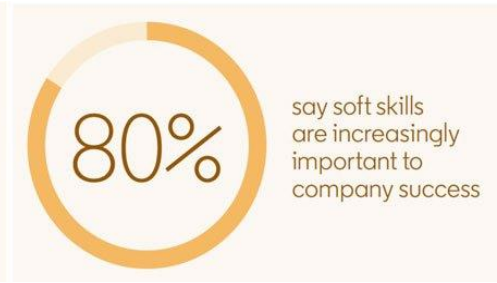
*“Our current students will enter a workforce where instability is the new normal and where they will have to be self-directed, original, and creative in order to navigate this maze.” - Empower by Spencer & Juliani*

# The New Economy

“We live in a fast-changing world, and producing more of the same knowledge and skills will not suffice to address the challenges of the future. A generation ago, teachers could expect that what they taught would last their students a lifetime. Today, because of rapid economic and social change, **schools have to prepare students for jobs that have not yet been created, technologies that have not yet been invented and problems that we don’t yet know will arise.**”

- Organization for Economic Development and Cooperation

# Skills Industry will be Looking for...





# Skills Industry will be Looking for...

2017 Article “The Surprising Thing Google learned about its Employees“...

**Soft Skills are more important than STEM expertise!**

## Most important qualities of top employees:

1. Being a good coach
2. Communicating and listening well
3. Possessing insights into others (including others different values and points of view)
4. Having empathy toward and being supportive of one's colleagues
5. Being a good critical thinker and problem solver
6. Being able to make connections across complex ideas
7. STEM expertise (hard skills)

## Of Best Teams:

1. Emotional Safety (*No bullying*)
2. Equality
3. Generosity
4. Curiosity toward others ideas
5. Empathy
6. Emotional Intelligence
7. STEM Expertise

# Inspired grads will be well-suited to thrive in New Economy

Experience in:

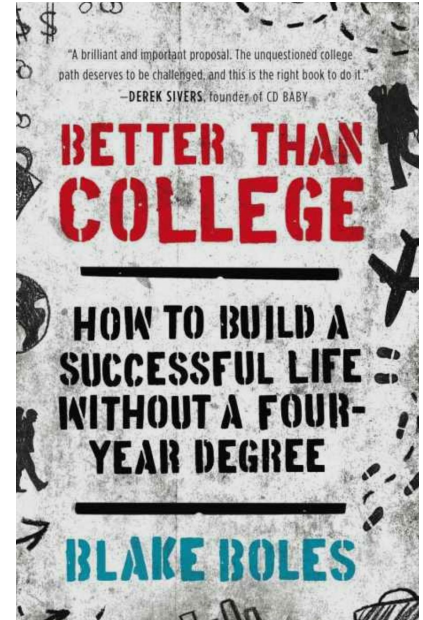
- Self-directed learning
- Industry tools
- Interpersonal communication

Ten Characteristics of an Effective Self-Directed Learner
1. Has a vision and goals for learning
2. Is able to develop a strategic plan for education
3. Is willing to take calculated risks
4. Is determined and persistent
5. Is organized (time, effort, resources)
6. Is able to develop a solid support network
7. Is self-motivated and self-disciplined
8. Takes initiative and is action oriented
9. Is self-assessing (able to evaluate self clearly and honestly)
10. Has positive self-esteem, confidence and self-efficacy (the conviction that you can successfully execute the behavior to produce the outcome desired)

# Reality check: Thriving does not solely equate to “Getting into college”

Hyper-focused on how to get in, not much focus on:

- How to finish
  - Only 1 in 3 will make it through the first year
  - Only 57% will graduate with a B.S. within 6 years
- Whether college makes sense
  - Other higher education options may be better, cheaper
  - Many careers are just coming into existence
  - College is expensive! ( up 257% over last 20 years)
  - Avg student graduates with \$37,000 debt
- Identifying passion and purpose
  - College goals need to be aligned with personal goals - which need to be clear



# Reality check: Thriving does not solely equate to “Getting into college”

Some of the most famously successful people dropped out of college

- Steve Jobs, Bill Gates, Mark Zuckerberg (among 13 “dropout” billionaires)

Elon Musk to the young and ambitious “Skills matter more than degrees.”

Risk sacrificing our children’s self-esteem and personal growth in this relentless pursuit

“The real prize in life isn’t the letters after your name, it’s the ability to accomplish awesome things. School isn’t required for that. Passion is.”

- Naval Ravikant,  
co-founder of AngelList

# Grads of similar schools are thriving in life

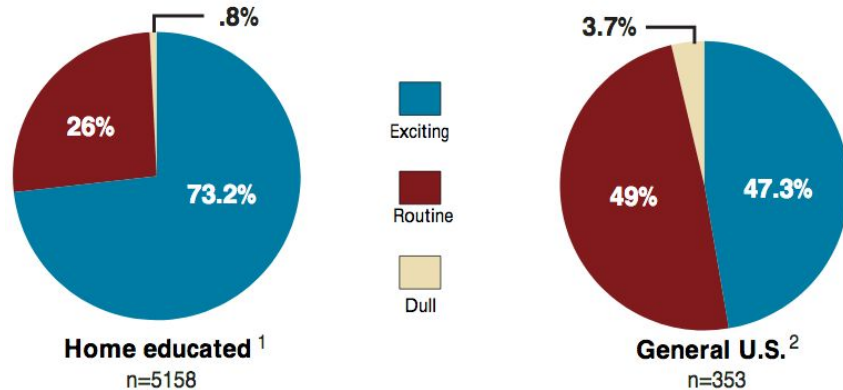
Statistics from alumni of Jefferson County Charter School in CO:

- **85%** completed college degree programs
  - national avg is 45%
- **89%** say they are **happy** with their jobs
  - less than 50% of Americans say they are even “**somewhat satisfied**” with their work
- **97%** say that the continual joy of learning is important to their lives as adults

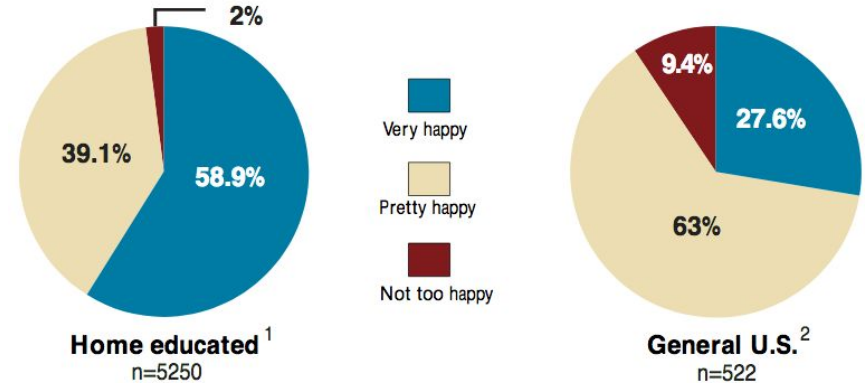
From *Lives of Passion, School of Hope* by former Jeffco principal Rick Posner, PhD

# Grads of similar schools are thriving in life

**Figure 9. Perspective on life: “In general, do you find life exciting, pretty routine, or dull?”**



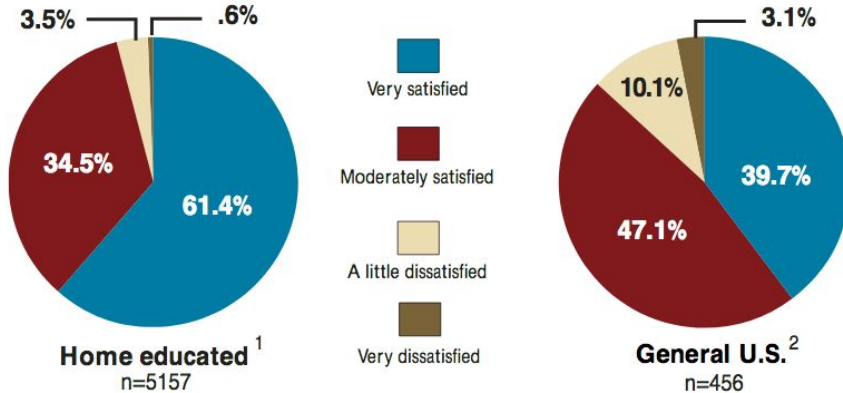
**Figure 8. Happiness quotient: “Taken all together, how would you say things are these days—would you say that you are ...”**



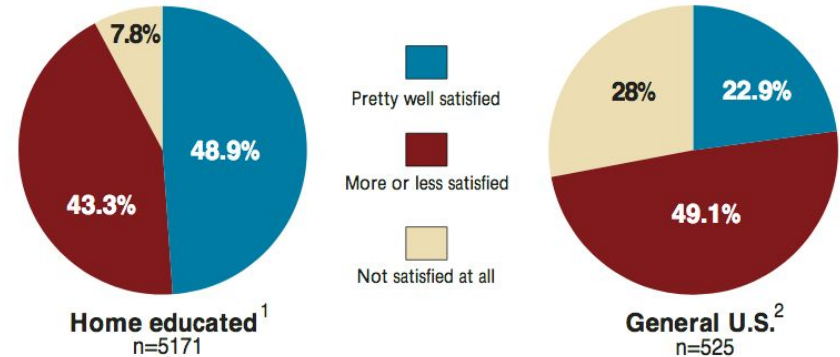
<https://hslda.org/content/research/ray2003/homeschoolinggrowsup.pdf>

# Grads of similar schools are thriving in life

**Figure 10. Job satisfaction: “On the whole, how satisfied are you with the work you do?”**



**Figure 11. Financial situation: “So far as you and your family are concerned, would you say that you are pretty well satisfied with your present financial situation, more or less satisfied, or not satisfied at all?”**



*Let your child THRIVE*



# Possible Concern: Can they get into college?

- As a nontraditional high school graduate, you have the advantage of standing out from the thousands of “same old, same old” college applications
  - College admission officers can look at your ePortfolio of high-quality work, see that you earned digital Open Badges, read your narrative transcripts to learn more about your unique, personalized path
- You can creatively map your unique projects and courses into familiar transcript terminology (e.g., English I, Science) as long as you have documentation to prove the work meets high standards (high school/college level of breadth and depth)

# Possible Concern: Can they get into college?

*“Overall, they reported **little difficulty getting into colleges and universities of their choice and adapting to the academic requirements there, despite not having the usual admissions credentials.**”*

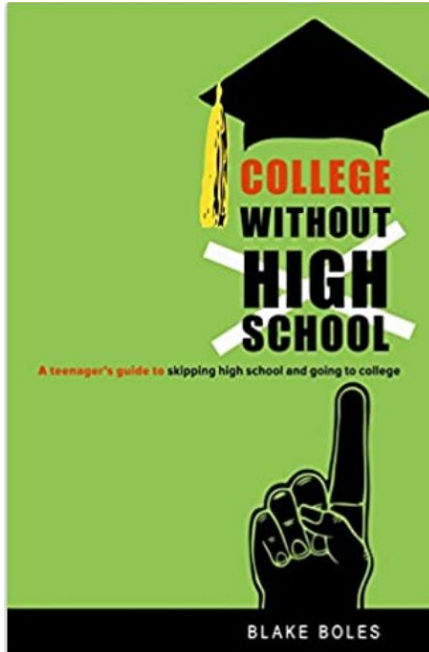
- Grown **Unschoolers'** Experiences with Higher Education and Employment by Gina Riley and Peter Gray

*“Fortunately, college admissions is handled very similarly for homeschoolers as it is for traditionally schooled students. In fact, many admissions offices **actively seek out** homeschoolers. Admissions officers evaluate each student within the context of his/her own background and the opportunities they've had.”*

- “What’s different about applying to college as a homeschooler” on KhanAcademy.org

<https://www.khanacademy.org/college-careers-more/college-admissions/applying-to-college/applying-as-a-homeschooler/a/whats-different-about-applying-to-college-as-a-homeschooler>

# Possible Concern: Can they get into college?



Blake Boles

January 24 · 🌐



Just reviewed the homeschool admissions policies for NYU, Columbia, Dartmouth, Penn, the U.C. system, the U of Chicago, Duke, Johns Hopkins, Northwestern, Stanford, MIT, Caltech, Harvard, Brown, Yale, and Princeton.

Happy to report that the guidelines I wrote a decade ago in my first book, *College Without High School*, are still accurate!

Here's what highly selective universities want from non-traditional applicants:

- Evidence that you've pursued highly challenging academic work during your high school years
- A transcript (self-created/unaccredited okay) that explains in detail the methods and content of your academic learning
- Any official transcripts from accredited institutions (like community colleges)
- The SAT or ACT plus two or more SAT Subject Tests (these are suuuuper important). AP or IB tests also helpful but certainly not mandatory.
- 3 letters of recommendation, only one of which should be from a parent. The most desirable letters come from those who have worked with the applicant in a challenging academic setting, preferably face-to-face (like a community college instructor).
- A clear personal essay that describes your motivations for homeschooling / taking a non-traditional path, what resources you used, and how you took full advantage of your opportunities.
- Doing an in-person interview (typically with an alum of the school) is highly recommended.

Almost none of these schools require a diploma or GED. And the ones that do (e.g., NYU) seem okay with you just fabricating a homeschool diploma.

# Possible Concern: Prepared for college?

Recall: Average is 1 in 3 will drop out before the second year

A successful Self-Directed Learner is more prepared than average in personal growth

- Self-starter, strategic planner, persistent, resilient
- Strong sense of self

Academic rigor

- Self-chosen curriculum can provide academic rigor
  - Rigor is not solely obtained by traditional high school curriculum;
- Can also be obtained via dual credit classes
  - More efficient learning

*Let your child THRIVE*

# Testimonials

*From our founding brick-and-mortar micro school, Inspired Learning Academy (ILA):*

“Our son is growing into a man and feels more self-confident at ILA as he is able to make more decisions for himself... At his prior school, he saw college as a continuation of his pain and suffering and wanted nothing to do with it. At ILA, it is a means for fulfilling his ambitions and he is preparing himself for the task.” - Dianne

“Since my daughter started attending ILA, she has made great progress in setting goals for herself and working her best towards achieving them. She is self-motivated and has developed her own strategies to stick to task and see through it. I couldn't be more proud of her achievements.” - Lakshmi

**Decide...**

What's most important for your child to thrive -  
now and in the future?

# Next Steps

Ready? - Fill out the **no-obligation application forms** (one for parent, one for teen):

- a. <https://www.inspiredvirtual.org/enrollment-application>
- b. Schedule an interview for your child

If you feel you would like to **schedule a personal phone consultation**, we encourage you to do that.

Call 214-509-8449 or email [office@inspiredvirtual.org](mailto:office@inspiredvirtual.org)

Thank you!